

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:586
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
DEEP SEA EXPLORATION
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has drawn any plan to undertake the exploration of oil in the deep sea;
- (b) if so, the details of the deep sea areas in which exploration is likely to be undertaken by ONGC; and
- (c) the funds earmarked for taking up exploration activities in the Ninth Plan period?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.586 for answer on 8.5.2000 regarding Deep Sea Exploration

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC)has plans to explore in the deep water areas of Kutch offshore, Mumbai offshore and Kerala-Konkan offshore on the West Coast and also Krishna-Godavari offshore and Cauvery offshore on the East Coast.

During the year 2000-2002, ONGC plans to acquire 22,500 Line Kilometre of 2D seismic and 1,19,000 Line Kilometre of 3D seismic data, and also drill eight exploratory wells in deep water areas of the East Coast and the West Coast.

Recently, ONGC has been awarded three blocks in the deep water areas of the East Coast under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Exploration works in these blocks will also be taken up in a time bound manner.

(c): An amount of Rs.210 crores was earmarked by ONGC for undertaking exploration in the deep water basins during the Ninth Plan. This has subsequently been increased to Rs.723 crores. In addition, there would be substantial investment by joint ventures/Private companies in the four deep water blocks for which contracts were signed recently on 12th April, 2000 under the NELP.